

HONOLULU, HAWAII TERRITORY, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1909.

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AUTOMOBILE TOPS

W. W. WRIGHT CO., LTD.

IGNORANCE ABOUT HAWAII PREVAILS

Conkling Finds No Literature About Islands at Any Place on the Mainland.

"The general public back East, aside from a few bankers and business men, know nothing whatever about Hawaii," said D. L. Conkling who returned on the Alameda yesterday. "In the library of congress in Washington I found the Hawaiian newspapers indexed under miscellaneous foreign to which I took exception at once. I found a general impression existing that a person could not come down here unless he spoke Spanish."

Conkling's tales of the ignorance of Hawaii are rather startling. Continuing he said: "Many people wanted to know whether or not they had to pay five cents postage here; if we used American money, and such."

"The last congressional party down here kicked about the bad roads here. I paid particular attention both going and coming and with the exception of the larger cities, I didn't see anything like the roads we have in Hawaii. On a rainy day they must be nothing but bogs from one end to the other."

"On the way across the continent, outside of the big cities, I saw only four automobiles although I was riding on the observation platform all the way over. I counted twenty-six graveyards from the train. One thing I noticed was that every station, even if it was only a water tank and a signal station, was lighted by electricity."

"The business men whom you meet traveling know about Hawaii very well. While on the car I was the center of an interested group every time I commenced to talk about the islands. They asked all sorts of questions and I did not know whether to be mirthful or wrathful. I wish I could remember some of them but I can't."

"I did not see a Hawaiian folder or any literature at all about the islands in any railroad station or hotel at all except on the steamer Alameda coming home. I found the best advertisement that Hawaii had was the canned pineapples and the exhibit at the Seattle fair. Canned pineapples and colored fishes. People all over the United States spoke to me about the colored fishes."

"Hackett, the clerk of the United States senate didn't know that Hawaii was a Territory. He thought that it was a possession. While in Washington I had two or three nice talks with Secretary Ballinger. He thinks that a large trade ought to be worked up between Hawaii and the north—that is, Seattle, Portland and those cities."

During his trip on the Coast Conkling has indulged in a little theatrical management and at the same time helped dispel another fallacy existing about Hawaii, a fallacy more humorous than it is complimentary.

While in New York he met John Ellis, the local boy, with his quintet, and in talking with him found out that the mulattoes—the half-negro, half-white—were getting the habit of shaving their hair and getting contracts as Hawaiian troubadours. Ellis was just about to close a contract with a big booking circuit in New York, and the day he went to the manager's office to sign it somebody said, "Why, that's a nigger." Ellis lost his contract.

Conkling went around to the office with him and managed to convince the manager that Ellis and his quartet were Hawaiians, and the next day Ellis showed him a contract for forty-two weeks at \$900 a week.

With Ellis is his wife, Emilia Makapahi, Joseph Kekuku, Kealoa and Joe Paaluh. Conkling says that if the Hawaiians are good at their instruments, let them go to the mainland by all means, for they will get lots of work; but if they are not, keep them at home.

While on the train, Conkling met a porter of a peculiar hue.

"What nationality are you?" asked Conkling.

"Why, Ah'm a Hawaiian, sah," said the porter.

"Uh," said Conkling, and immediately started in on a stream of Hawaiian.

"Go on, what yo' doin'?" asked the porter.

"I'm talking Hawaiian," said Conkling.

"Aw, shucks," said the pseudo Hawaiian. "Ah was only foolin' yo', yo' knows dat."

One of the peculiar ideas which Easterners hold is that one has only to come over here and take up land and it will immediately go up in price and can be sold at a large profit. Conkling received many queries as to the land questions, and he also states that he received at least 300 promises from people to come here.

His trip to the mainland was the first in nine years, and he took time enough to enjoy it. His mother and little nephew accompanied him home and are now all snugly ensconced in his home on Kalihhi road.

W. C. Pencock & Co., Ltd., whose place of business is on Merchant street—telephone No. 4—advertise on a quarter page today that in future they will make a special effort to handle family trade, delivering all orders in sealed, plain packages by special messengers. This is a new departure for this firm.

On another page will be found reference to the Sherwin-Williams paints now being used on the E. O. Hall & Son building, at the corner of Fort and King streets. The polish it is giving the place has been remarked by everyone passing the corner. Any information relative to the goods will be supplied from the store.



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